

Minutes of TAFCA AGM held on Thursday 29th May 2018 at 7.30 pm in the St Peters Free Church, Dundee.

Present:

A Borwell, Mrs J Chalmers, J Warren, D Findlay, S McKenzie, I Washington, R Noble, P Shafi, A Dawson, F Stevenson, Marcus Wylie, Peter Selbie, Stuart Blyth, Zdenek Swaczyna and Alan Woodcock

Apologies: Keith Rose, Dominic O'Rourke, Russel Kynock and Subhayu Banerjee

Approval of Minutes: Proposed by J Anderson; Seconded S McKenzie

Matters Arising: None

President's Remarks:

The 2017-18 season was one of the most memorable in the history of Tayside and Fife and Dundee chess, mostly for joyful celebration but also some moments of sadness. We were all shocked at the premature death of George Pyrich in Spain, who served Kirkcaldy and Glenrothes chess clubs and activities for over 40 years, was a past President of TAFCA and was active in Scottish, Spanish and international chess and correspondence chess over five decades. He was a giant of a man, greatly loved by his family and his very many friends.

In July 2017, we welcomed the Scottish Chess Congress and Championships to Dundee where the world – famous Dundee 1867 international tournament was also celebrated with the hosting of a very successful 150th Anniversary Grandmaster (GM) International Tournament which was superbly organised by Jean Chalmers and the Event Committee. The committee also wished to congratulate IM Andrew Greet who won the GM tournament. Andrew is also a member of the Dundee City team that won the 2017-18 SNCL Championship.

On the international scene, TAFCA players participated with merit in various Junior and Senior events and also within the Alba team in the 4NCL that retained a place in the top 4NCL Division. Nationally, Dundee City A team won the SNCL for the first time after several near misses and the Dundee City B and C teams both came close to promotion, finishing 4th in their respective Divisions. Congratulations to all involved and the SNCL organiser Alastair Dawson.

Declan Shafi became East of Scotland Chess Champion at the Edinburgh Congress! Declan was also selected to represent Scotland in the Glorney Cup U-18 team, the tournament due to be held in Paisley during July 2018. In addition, Ben Volland was selected by TAFCA as the most improved Junior for season 2017-18.

In the TAFCA League, Dundee A completed their 5th successive winning of the Division 1 title, yet again remaining undefeated throughout the season. We were delighted to welcome Newport to the League and they performed creditably in the second Division where the winners and the promoted team were Kirkcaldy B.

Alan Borwell reported that this season has been the 10th year in which he has had the privilege to serve as TAFCA President, four in the 1970s and the remainder since election in 2012. He described his enjoyment during his terms of office and he publicly acknowledged the support he had received from Committee Members, Clubs and players, especially our capable General Secretary, Jean Chalmers, and our highly efficient League Secretary, John Warren.

League Secretary's Report:

John started his report by saying that St Andrews had not entered a team this year but were hoping to do so next year. He also said it was good to see Newport Knights as a new club entering a team this year and that they did well in their first season. Castlehill also added a new team. He also congratulated Dundee A for winning Division 1 and also winning all their matches. Also he congratulated Kirkcaldy B in winning Division 2 and Castlehill C in beating Perth in the Knockout final. Perth B would be relegated to Division 2. He said credit should also be given to the team Captains as there were a lot less defaults this year making the league easier to administer.

There was then a discussion on teams for season 2018-19 as a few clubs hoped to enter additional teams. The layout of the Divisions will be discussed at the beginning of the new season once it is known how many teams have entered.

Treasurer's Report :

The Treasurer (SB) was not present but had provided a set of audited accounts. Alan reported that the new bank balance was slightly increased from last year and stands at 1,342.47. It was noted that an earlier commitment to support the Dundee Chess Congress to the sum of £500 had not arisen due to the cancellation of the last proposed Congress. However, it was agreed that TAFCA would remain committed to support future Dundee Chess Congress should the need arise and should a request be received. It was noted that the annual contribution by TAFCA to Chess Scotland had increased to £240 from the previous year contribution of £156. There was also a payment made for trophies and medals of £130 as compared with no payment the previous year. In summary the annual income was £450 compared to an annual expenditure of £399 leaving a surplus for the current year of £51.

Election of Office Bearers:

		Proposed	Seconded
President	Alastair Dawson	J. Chalmers	J Anderson
Vice President	Peter Selbie	S. Blyth	D. Findlay
Treasurer	Subhayu Banerjee	R Noble	J Anderson
Fixture Secretary	John Warren	J Anderson	S McKenzie
General Secretary	Jean Chalmers	J Anderson	M Wylie
C S Delegate	Alan Borwell	J. Chalmers	J Anderson
TAFCA Individual	Ray Noble	J. Chalmers	A Borwell
Minute Secretary	Jim Anderson	J Chalmers	M Wylie
Ordinary Members:			
	Marcus Wylie	J Anderson	J Chalmers
	Paul Shafi	J Anderson	J Chalmers
	Keith Rose	J Chalmers	S McKenzie
	David Findlay	J Chalmers	A Borwell
	Scott McKenzie	J Chalmers	J Anderson
	Stuart Blythe	J Anderson	S McKenzie
	Zdenek Swaczyna	J Anderson	J Chalmers
	Alan Woodcock	J Chalmers	J Anderson
	Ian Washington	A Borwell	J Anderson
	Frank Stevenson	R Noble	S Banerjee
Auditor	Frank Stevenson	J Chalmers	D Findlay

Proposals:

The following 2 proposals were made by Kirkcaldy Chess Club.

A. Delete the following:

4.2 An Club which has a lower graded team, promoted whilst at the same time having a higher graded team relegated, should have the decision as to whether the lower graded team may in the lower division or move up while the higher graded team moves down.

and replace it with under 4 (or 11):

‘A club cannot play a lower-graded team in a higher division than a higher-graded team. For example, a C team cannot play in Division 1 while the B team plays in Division 2.’

During discussion it was explained how this came about and if a team gets promotion and players that played all the matches find themselves still in Division 2, they are eligible to play in Division 1 using this rule. It is up to each individual club if they wish to implement this rule. After the discussion it was voted to leave the rule as it is.

B: Add the following to ‘7.Fixtures’

‘The geography of TAFCA can give rise to some unfortunate consequences. First, some clubs can have three or four teams in the same Division while others may have only one. Second, some clubs are in close geographical proximity (Dundee, Newport and Castlehill) while others are not (Perth and Kirkcaldy). Consequently, the balance of home and away matches in the fixture list does not always match the amount of travelling a team has to undertake. These factors should be taken into account when compiling the fixture list and consideration given to the amount of potential travelling involved rather than a simple balance of home and away’.

John Warren explained that he did the fixtures as fairly as he could. After a long discussion, representatives for Dundee, Newport and Castlehill said that they were happy that if there was an odd number of teams in the Division and that the consequence could be that Kirkcaldy and Perth would get more home games than away games. The knock-on effect would be that Dundee, Newport and Castlehill would have more away matches than home matches. All club representatives present agreed that John Warren would have the final say on this matter prior to the start of each season.

Any other business:

There was one main item for discussion: Allegro tournaments:

Several members expressed the view that in the absence of other TAFCA competitions presently available with League, an initiative ought to be made to run a series of Allegro tournaments throughout the year. These would run on several evenings and be held at different clubs throughout the season. After a lengthy discussion of the merits of this proposal

it was agreed that such an initiative should take place. Ray Noble kindly agreed to oversee the administration of these events. Representatives from the clubs agreed on the month that they would individually hold an Allegro event. There was agreement that an Allegro event should take place once a month starting in October 2018 and finishing on March 2019. The agreement was also that:

the October Allegro would be held at Newport Chess Club on a Wednesday 31st October
the November Allegro would be held in Perth Chess Club on Monday 26th November
the January 2019 Allegro would be held at Castlehill Chess Club on Thursday 31st January
the February Allegro would be held at Dundee Chess Club on Tuesday 26th February
the March Allegro would be held at Kirkcaldy Chess Club on Wednesday 27th March

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.35 pm. It was announced that the next meeting of the TAFCA Committee would be held provisionally on **Tuesday September 18th** at Dundee Chess Club (date to be re-confirmed).

Jim Anderson
August 2018